

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSM-03 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01
SY-05 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /085 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8684
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 01087

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PINS FR GW IS
SUBJECT: MORE ON ABOU DAOUD

REF: PARIS 946

1. WHILE THE FAR LEFT FRENCH PRESS HAS CONTINUED TO
CRITICIZE THE GOF FOR THE INITIAL ARREST OF ABOU DAOUD,
THE MAJOR NEWSPAPERS ARE NOW CONDEMNING THE HASTE AND
QUESTIONABLE PROCEDURES WHICH RESULTED IN HIS
RELEASE AND EXPULSION. GERMAN FAILURE TO FOLLOW UP WITH
AN EXTRADITION REQUEST IS HIGHLIGHTED BY A NUMBER OF
COMMENTATORS WHILE OTHERS, ESPECIALLY EUROPE ONE RADIO,
DARKLY HINT AT CIA OR ISRAELI INSPIRATION BEHIND THE
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ARREST.

2. A CRITICAL EDITORIAL BY PRO-GOVERNMENTAL FIGARO ENDS
ON THE THEME THAT WHEN THE FRENCH POLICE DO THEIR DUTY
BUT ARE THEN DISAVOWED BY PART OF PUBLIC OPINION,
DECLARED IN ERROR BY THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND THE GOVERN-
MENT FINALLY WASHES ITS HANDS OF THE CASE, THE QUESTION

IS NO LONGER IN THE DOMAIN OF POLITICS, BUT LIKE A PUNCH AND JUDY SHOW. SIMILARLY, LEFT-OF-CENTER, ANTI-GISCARD LE MONDE COMMENTS: "A POLICE FORCE WHICH DOES NOT FOLLOW ORDERS, A JUDICIAL SYSTEM WHICH DOES, A GOVERNMENT WHICH IN THE EYES OF FRENCH AND WORLD OPINION MAKES THE 'RAISON D'ETAT' PREVAIL UNDER THE WORST CONDITIONS...WHAT A SAD BALANCE SHEET*"

3. THE QUOTIDIEN'S SUMMARY PHRASE REFLECTS THE RELIEF THAT MOST GOF OFFICIALS FEEL AT HAVING DAOUD OUT OF THE COUNTRY. "IN FACT, IS NOT THE ESSENTIAL POINT TO PRE-SERVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND TO ASSURE FRANCE'S OIL SUPPLIES?"

4. COMMENT: THE FRENCH HAVE MANAGED QUICKLY TO RETREAT FROM A POLICE ACTION, AUTHORIZED OR NOT, WHICH MIGHT HAVE HARMED SIGNIFICANTLY THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE ARABS. GOF OFFICIALS ARE TRYING TO EXPLOIT THE FACT THAT THE FRG FAILED TO FORWARD AN EXTRADITION REQUEST AND, ALLEGEDLY, HAD NO INTENTION TO SUBMIT ONE.

5. THE EXERCISE HAS HARDLY GAINED RESPECT FOR FRANCE AMONG THE ARABS AND HAS DEEPENED ISRAELI DISTRUST. IN THIS SENSE, THE FRENCH HAVE COMPROMISED WHATEVER HOPES THEY MAY HAVE HELD OF INFLUENCING FUTURE SETTLEMENT EFFORTS. MOREOVER, THEY HAVE LOWERED THE CREDIBILITY OF THEIR DECLARED INTENTION TO COOPERATE EFFECTIVELY WITH THEIR EUROPEAN PARTNERS AGAINST TERRORISM.

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6. THE REAL FACTS BEHIND DAOUD'S ARREST AND RELEASE PROBABLY WILL BE LONG IN COMING TO LIGHT. LIKE ALL SUCH INCIDENTS, THIS ONE WILL QUICKLY PASS FROM THE NEWS AND ITS EFFECTS WILL NOT BE IMPORTANT. BUT THE GISCARD GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THIS MATTER WILL HAVE STRENGTHENED THE IMAGE OF MISMANAGEMENT AND EXPEDIENCY WHICH THE DE BROGLIE AFFAIR HAS ALREADY CREATED IN THE PUBLIC MIND. FRANCE'S INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE, TOO, WILL HAVE SUFFERED.
GAMMON

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